MUS SALIENS.

Character Genericus.

Dentes primores inferiores ſubulati.

Lin. Syſt. Nat. p. 79.

Character Specificus, &c.

MUS cauda elongata floccoſa, femoribus longiſſimis, digito utrinque ſpurio ad pedes poſticos.

CUNICULUS pumilio ſaliens, cauda anomala longiſſima.

Briſſon Quadr. 103.

JERBOA.

Shaw Itin. 248.

Mira pedum anticorum et poſteriorum inæqualitate diſtinguitur Jerboa: antici enim ita breves ſunt ut ad progrediendum minime valeant, poſtici autem totius corporis longitudini pares ſunt. Hinc fit ut pedibus ſolummodo poſterioribus ſtet et quieſcat, anticoſque ad nullum alium uſum convertat, quam ad attrahendum cibum, culmos nempe cum ſpicis tritici, aliaſque plantas; aut ad fodiendum cubile ſubterraneum. Plerumque more avis incedit, erecta ſcilicet cruribus, quæ pilis rariſſimis veſtiuntur, aviumque cruribus ſunt

valde ſimilia. Cauda illi prælonga eſt, apice faſciculato.

Tres vel quatuor exſtant Jerboæ ſpecies, vel ſaltem conſtantes, ut dicuntur, varietates, quæque in PENNANTII Hiſtoria Quadrupedum, genus diſtinctum conſtituunt; quas vero LINNÆUS, ſub genere *Muris* ordinat.

Perniciſſimæ velocitatis ſunt Jerboæ, et ab hoſte ſaltibus continuatis longiſſimis adeo rapide aufugiunt, ut equo generoſo vectus aliquis vix ægreque illas aſſequi poſſit. Frigoris ſunt impatientes, et tempore brumali in domunculis ſubterraneis ſepultæ obdormiunt. Frugibus veſcuntur. In hoc potiſſimum differt ſpecies de qua jam agitur a communi ſpecie, (quæ *Mus Jaculus* LINNÆI) quod crura paulo ſupra pedes digito utrinque ſpurio, longo, velut calcari armantur. Non tantum calidas regiones, Syriam nempe et Barbariam, ſed et Sibiriæ partes orientales, idque frequenter, incolit Jerboa. Moles illi eſt quaſi magni foricis.

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THE SIBIRIAN JERBOA.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Two long cutting teeth in each jaw.
Fore Legs very ſhort: hind legs very long.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

JERBOA with a pair of ſpurious toes on each hind foot.

SIBIRIAN JERBOA.

Pennant Quadr. p. 429.

The Jerboa is remarkable for the ſtrange diſproportion between the length of the fore legs and the hind ones; the former being ſo very ſhort as to be of no uſe to the animal in walking, while the latter are ſo long as to equal the whole body. In conſequence of this peculiar formation, the creature ſtands and reſts on its hind legs only, and makes no other uſe of the fore legs than to hold its food, and draw down the ſtems of wheat and other vegetables on which it feeds, and to ſcratch the ground in order to form its burrows. It has the general actions and attitudes of a bird, and the legs are covered thinly with ſhort hair, and very much reſemble thoſe of birds. The tail is very long and terminates in a tuft.

There are three or four diſtinct ſpecies, or at leaſt permanent varieties of Jerboa, and in the Hiſtory of Quadrupeds of Mr. Pennant they conſtitute a particular genus; but Linnæus places them as ſpecies of the genus *Mus*.

The Jerboas are animals of the moſt ſurprizing ſwiftneſs, and on the approach of danger immediately ſpring forward by ſucceſſive leaps, ſo very nimbly, that it is ſaid to be very difficult for a man well mounted to overtake them. They are impatient of cold, and remain during the winter in a dormant ſtate in their burrows. They feed on vegetables. The particular ſpecies here repreſented differs principally from the common Jerboa or *Mus Jaculus* of Linnæus in having the legs furniſhed at a little diſtance above the feet with a pair of ſpurious toes or ſpurs. It is found not only in the warmer regions of Barbary and Syria, but in the Eaſtern part of Siberia in conſiderable plenty. It is about the ſize of a large rat.